



Department of Energy

Official File

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

August 24, 2018

In reply refer to: EC-4

To: Parties Interested in the Proposed Cayuse Goat Ranch Conservation Easement.

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) intends to fund the purchase of approximately 76.47 acres of mixed conifer forest, native grasslands, and riparian/wetland habitat, located along Umatilla River, approximately 10 miles east of Pendleton, Umatilla County Oregon. When the purchase is complete, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) will own and manage the property for fish and wildlife conservation purposes and BPA will receive a conservation easement to ensure that the habitat values on the property are always protected. BPA is sending this letter to inform nearby residents and other interested parties of this land purchase.

The funding will be provided as part of BPA's ongoing efforts to protect, restore and enhance habitat for Spring Chinook, Coho and Middle Columbia River Steelhead. The acquisition would serve as partial mitigation for the construction and operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System which includes dams on the main stem Columbia and Snake Rivers. This land purchase would specifically satisfy some of BPA's mitigation needs to acquire new fish and wildlife habitat as identified in the National Marine Fisheries Service 2008/2010/2014 Biological Opinion that guides BPA's protection of salmon and steelhead listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Enclosed you will find a map detailing this land transaction. BPA has prepared a categorical exclusion and environmental checklist documenting that no further environmental review of this funding action is required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This documentation, known as a categorical exclusion, was approved on August 22, 2018 and is posted on BPA's website at:

<https://www.bpa.gov/efw/Analysis/CategoricalExclusions/Pages/2018.aspx>.

The CTUIR will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat on the property. The CTUIR will provide the opportunity for the public to review the draft plan. BPA will review the plan for consistency with the purpose of the acquisition and the terms and conditions of the conservation easement prior to its implementation. If BPA proposes to fund any restoration activities, we will conduct additional environmental review under NEPA and other statutes as appropriate.

If you have any questions regarding this land purchase, please feel free to contact the project manager, Hannah Dondy-Kaplan at (503) 230-4071 or hadondy-kaplan@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free 800-622-4519. Please refer to the Cayuse Goat Ranch Conservation Easement.

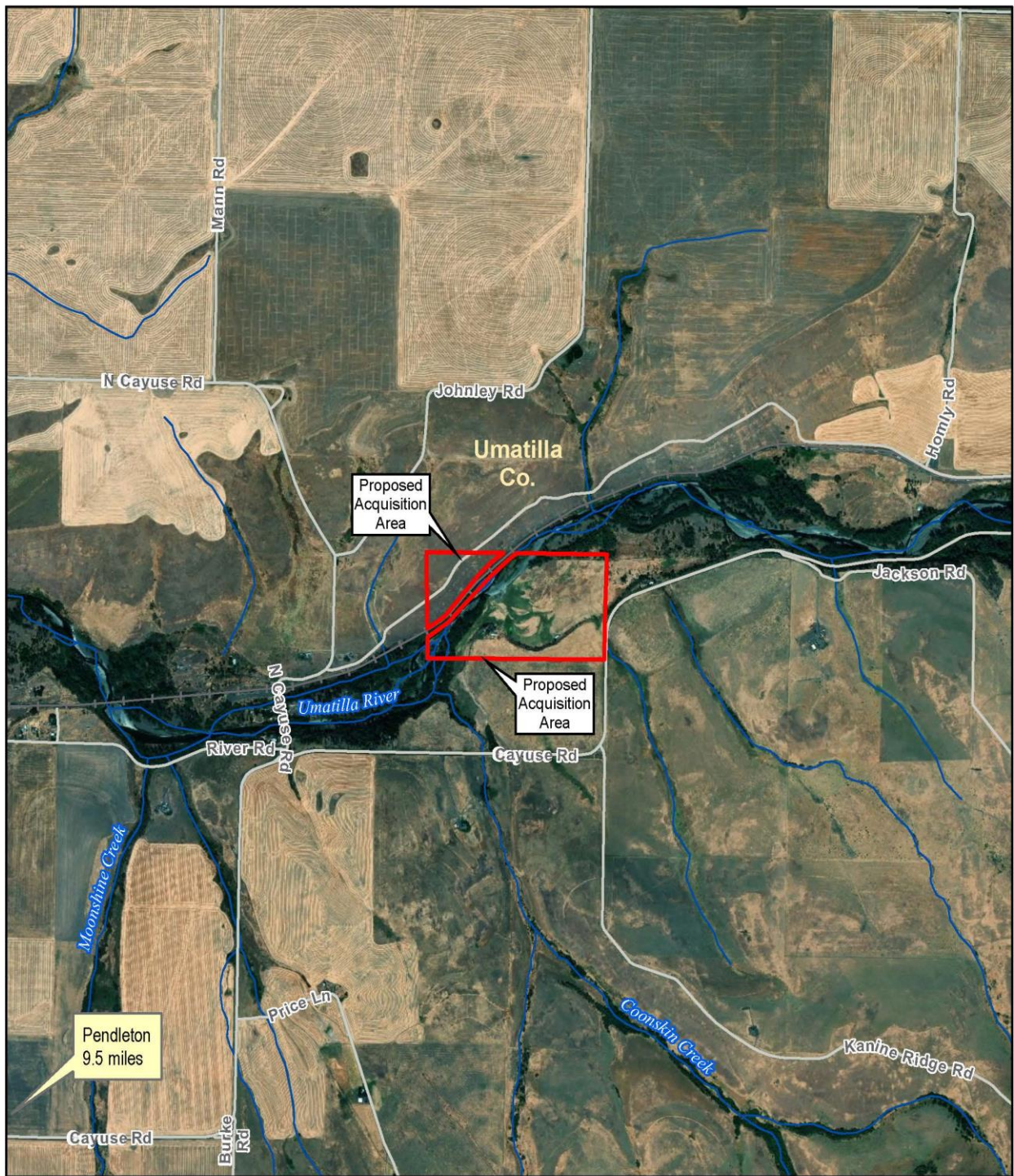
Sincerely,

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

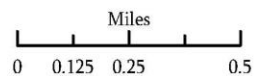
Enclosure: Vicinity Map



Cayuse Goat Ranch Land Acquisition Public Notification Map

Umatilla County, OR - Cayuse 24k USGS Quadrangle
(76.47 Acres)

Proposed Acquisition Area



July 25, 2018

